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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/807,983

**Applicant(s)**

ASAKAWA ET AL.

**Examiner**

Quoc A. Tran

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-8,12 and 16-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6,7 and 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,8,12,16,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 May 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***DETAILED ACTION***

This is a **Non-Final** rejection in response to RCE filed on 05/06/2008; amendment/remarks filed 04/08/2008. Claims 1, 6-8, 12, 16-17 and 18-19 are currently pending. Claims 6, 7, and 17 are withdrawn from examination due to Non-elected claims. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 12, cancelled claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 20. Effective filing date is 03-24-2004, priority date **03-28-2003** (Assignee IBM).

It is noted claim 1 at Page 3, Line 6→ Page 4 Line 11 recites the transitional phrase "*selecting...group... consisting of*" [emphasis added] is a closed term, which is often used in the claim drafting to signal "Markush group" that is by its nature closed, See MPEP 2111.03 [R-3] [Transitional Phrase] and also MPEP 2173.05(h) [Alternatives Limitation] "MARKUSH GROUPS". Thus Examiner is selected one from the groups as described in the "Markush groups" of claim 1 at Page 3, Line 6→ Page 4 Line 11 against the prior art, as stated below.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/06/08 and 04/08/2008 have been entered.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

***Claim 1:***

Claim 1 recites a "*processing apparatus*" comprising a plurality of means for perform various function to digest and display document, when said layout being too large to fit in a display screen of a display device. The Examiner notes the disclosure of the present invention expressly states "*the information processing apparatus ... comprise means for changing the display content of the digest screen based on an operation of a user.*" [emphasis added] see Specification → Page 11, Lines 1-7. Also see applicant's disclosure at page 49 lines 11-18, which is stated "*a combination of hardware and software. .... Any kind of computer system - or other apparatus adapted for carrying out the methods and/or functions described herein - is suitable.*" [Emphasis added]; the Examiner interprets **all functions** described herein **may be performed in** either hardware or **software**. Thus, for purposes of examination, the examiner

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interprets the recited "*processing apparatus*" comprising a plurality of means for perform various function to digest and display document, when said layout being too large to fit in a display screen of a display device to comprise only computer software.

Accordingly, the "*processing apparatus*" recited in Claim 1 is software *per se*.

**Claim 12:**

Claim 12 recites a "*program*" comprising code for perform various function to digest and display document, when said layout being too large to fit in a display screen of a display device. The Examiner interprets the recited "*program*" comprising code for perform various function to digest and display document, when said layout being too large to fit in a display screen comprise only computer software. Accordingly, the "*program*" comprising code" recited in Claim 12 is software *per se*.

Computer software is not a process, a machine, a manufacture or a composition of matter. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 12 fail to recite statutory subject matter, as defined in 35 U.S.C. 101.

In the interest of compact prosecution, the application is further examined against the prior art, as stated below, upon the assumption that the applicants may overcome the above stated rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.*

**Claims 1, 8, 12, 16, and 18-19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Maeda** et al. US 20010054049A1 filed 12-19-2000 (hereinafter Maeda), in view of **Chen** et al. US 20020078097A1 filed 04-18-2001 (hereinafter Chen).

*Regarding independent claim 1,*

Maeda teaches:

**An information processing apparatus comprising means for creating a digest of a document a layout of which is determined, when said layout being too large to fit in a display screen of a display device or when a document reader requires said document to be zoomed for reading characters displayed on the display device, the document including a plurality of regions, each region including one or more display elements, the means for creating comprising:**

(See Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15, discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of

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the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives.

Also, see Maeda para 89, disclose the web browser 10 that employs the DOM tree automatically converts the HTML document into the tree, the obtained tree structure is merely be fetched by the layout structure analyzer 21.

Using the broadest reason able interpretation, the examiner reads the claimed **creating a digest of a document** as equivalent to analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement as taught by Maeda, and also see applicants' current disclosure at para 6, "method for creating a digest of the web page, in which a layout of the Web page is automatically analyzed based on tags of an HTML (refer to Patent Document 1),")

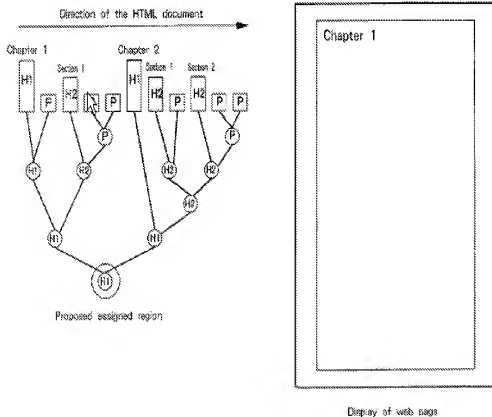
**means for selecting the display elements based on display priorities  
of the display elements, and for deciding all of selected display  
elements as a display content of a digest screen under a condition  
where a total display area of all of the selected display elements  
does not exceed a required display area;**

(See Maeda para 106, provides means to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition.

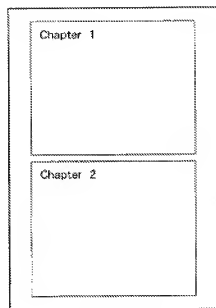
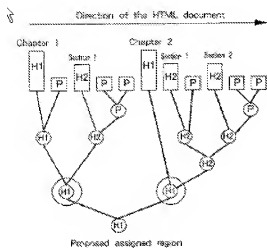
Also, see Maeda Fig. 15 and para 118, displaying all the characters in "chapter 1," which is the most important, in the contents of the HTML tag <H1> of the target node,

Also, see Maeda Fig. 16 and para 119, displaying "chapter 1" and "chapter 2," which are the most important contents of the HTML tags <H1> of the two target nodes,

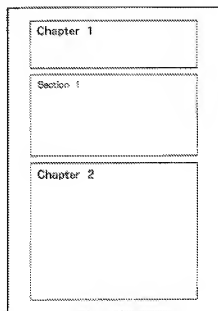
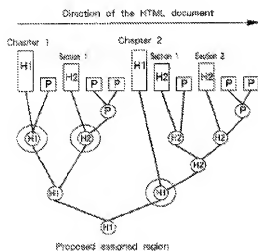
Also, see Maeda Fig. 18 and para 121, showing nodes that are currently established as assigned regions, and the rectangular areas that are represented by the nodes. By referring to FIG. 18, the layout of the web page is determined using three assigned regions,







Display of web page



Display of web page

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page.

Also, see Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15, discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives. Using broadest reasonable interpretation, the examiner equates the claimed **condition where a total display area of all of the selected display elements does not exceed a required display area** as equivalent to display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document, and Fig. 15-18 as taught by Maeda.)

**and means for ensuring access to information lost by creating  
the digest and ensuring said digest fits optimally on said display  
device.**

(See Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15, discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of

the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives.

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page.)

**means for deciding, as a display content of a detail screen, a region group including the regions displayed on the digest screen, and means for creating control information for controlling a display of the detail screen, wherein the means for deciding the display content of the detail screen creates a digest of the detail screen based on the control information when the region group is too large to fit in the required display area.**

(See Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15, discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives.

Also, see Maeda para 89, disclose the web browser 10 that employs the DOM tree automatically converts the HTML document into the tree, the obtained tree structure is merely be fetched by the layout structure analyzer 21.

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page.)

**wherein the means for deciding the display content of the digest screen further includes means for changing the display content of the digest screen based on an operation of a user;**

(See Maeda para 89, disclose the web browser 10 that employs the DOM tree automatically converts the HTML document into the tree, the obtained tree structure is merely be fetched by the layout structure analyzer 21.

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page.)

**wherein the changing means includes means for automatically changing the display content of the digest screen, accompanying the operation of the user.**

(See Maeda para 89, disclose the web browser 10 that employs the DOM tree automatically converts the HTML document into the tree, the obtained tree structure is merely be fetched by the layout structure analyzer 21.

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, it is noted the claimed **the display content of the digest screen** is the web browser 10 that employs the DOM tree automatically converts the HTML document into the tree, the obtained tree structure is merely be fetched by the layout structure analyzer 21 as taught by Maeda.)

**further comprising selective implemented performance capability of employing any combination of means taken from a group of means consisting of: means for creating control information for controlling a display of the detail screen, wherein the means for deciding the display content of the detail screen creates a digest of the detail screen based on the control information when the region group is too large to fit in the required display area:**

(See Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15, discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives.

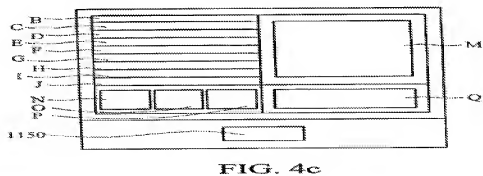
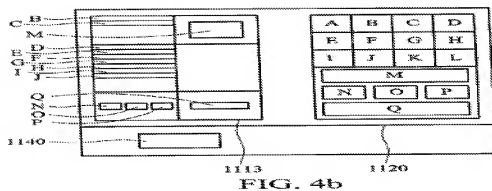
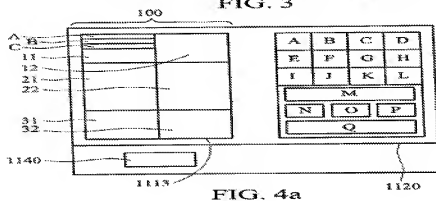
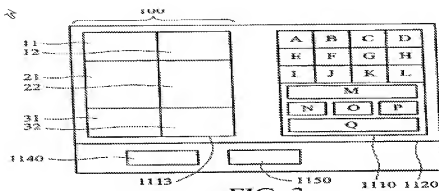
Also, see Maeda para 89, disclose the web browser 10 that employs the DOM tree automatically converts the HTML document into the tree, the obtained tree structure is merely be fetched by the layout structure analyzer 21.

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page.)

In addition, Maeda does not explicitly teach, but Chen teaches:

**means for setting a merging relationship among the regions  
by deciding a merging region, with which a region not being  
displayed on the digest screen is merged, from among regions  
displayed on the digest screen based on layout information for the  
regions in the document, all of the regions being included in the  
document; and the region merged with the displayed regions in  
response to that a detail display of the displayed regions is required,**

(See Chen fig. 3, 4a-c and para 10-15, shows the merging process, wherein the first display area is merging with the second display area if the second display area does not contain data an intermediate data stream in name/value pair format; determining whether a third display area adjacent to the first display area in the vertical direction contains data; and determining whether a third display area adjacent to the first display area in the vertical direction contains data; and merging the first display area with the third display area if the second display area does not contain data.



Also, see Chen para 36-51; disclose the details of the merging process of Fig. 3, and Fig. 4a-c. Using the broadest reasonable interpretation, it is noted the claimed **the digest screen is merged** is the merging process (see fig. 3, 4a-c) as taught by Chen.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Maeda's information processing terminal, provides a means to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, while preserving the layout of the document, to include a means of setting a merging relationship among the regions by deciding a merging region, with which a region not being displayed on the digest screen is merged, from among regions displayed on the digest screen based on layout information for the regions in the document, all of the regions being included in the document as taught by Chen. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to perform such a modification, because Maeda and Chen are analogous art, since they are from the same field of allocating, and merging lay out of web document without deterioration of the layout of the web page, and provides the followings advantages: The contents of a document can be displayed in accordance with a desired display condition (font size, line spacing, character spacing, etc.), while the layout of the document is preserved; Further, when characters are enlarged and displayed while the layout is being preserved, the display contents can be edited without important information in the document being erased (see Maeda para 162-163).



*Regarding independent claim 8,*

is fully incorporated similar subject of claim 1 cited above, and is similarly rejected along the same rationale. Thus, Maeda and Chen disclose every limitation of Claim 8 and provide proper reasons to combine, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 1.

*Regarding independent claim 12:*

Claim 12 recites a program to implement a method recited in Claim 1. Thus, Thus, Maeda and Chen disclose every limitation of Claim 8 and provide proper reasons to combine, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 1.

In addition, Maeda teaches:

**a function to select the display elements based on display priorities of the display elements, and to decide all of selected display elements as a display content of a digest screen under a condition where a total display area of all of the selected display elements does not exceed a required display area;**

(See the Abstract and at Para 60→ Maeda discloses this limitation in that he intra-region contents determiner designates a priority order for control information for controlling the style of a document, and in accordance with the priority order, determines for each portion of the document, the contents that are to be displayed in a corresponding assigned region. This arrangement is particularly superior, as important

information is not erased, even when not all the original data can be displayed in an assigned region because enlarged characters are employed.

See also fig. 1 and para 13-15, Maeda discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives.

Also, see Maeda para 81, discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page.)

***Claim 16:***

Claim 16 recites a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embedded therein to perform the method recited in claim 1. Thus, Maeda and Chen disclose every limitation of Claim 16 and provide proper reasons to combine, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 1 (See Maeda para 164, discloses hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software. And also be embedded in a computer program product.)

**Claim 18:**

Claim 18 recites an article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein to perform the method recited in claim 8. Thus, Maeda and Chen disclose every limitation of Claim 18 and provide proper reasons to combine, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 8 (See Maeda para 164, discloses hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software. And also be embedded in a computer program product, and also be embedded in a computer program product.)

**Claim 19:**

Claim 19 recites a program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform the method recited in claim 8. Thus, Maeda and Chen disclose every limitation of Claim 18 and provide proper reasons to combine, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 8 (See Maeda para 164, discloses hardware, software, or a combination of hardware and software. And also be embedded in a computer program product, and also be embedded in a computer program product.)

It is noted that any citations to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon

for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art.  
See, MPEP 2123.

***Response to Argument***

Applicant's Remarks filed 04/08/2008 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

This office action is a Non-Final Rejection in order to give the applicant sufficient opportunity to response to the new line of rejection.

It is noted, the examiner maintains Maeda in view of Chen references at this time; since Maeda et al. describes the short coming of an enlarged display specifies that a display screen, using the magnification tool is used only the data in a designated small area are magnified. However, the area within which magnified data are displayed is narrow. And if the size of the magnification area is increased, a portion hidden by the magnification area is expanded, and viewing the contents of an original display screen is difficult. That is, since with the conventional techniques only one part on a display screen is enlarged, it is difficult to obtain an overview of the data and to understand the contents- See Maeda at Page 1 Para 11-12. Thus, Maeda further discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document **using a selected display condition**, such as a desired font

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size or a desired line space or character space, **while preserving the layout of the document** as well as to edit the contents of the document, **when it is enlarged and displayed**, so that important information in the document survives-See Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15. Also Maeda further discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page- See Maeda at Fig. 16 and at Para 81; and

in view of Chen et al. which shows **the merging process**, wherein the first display area is merging with the second display area if the second display area does not contain data an intermediate data stream in name/value pair format; determining whether a third display area adjacent to the first display area in the vertical direction contains data; and determining whether a third display area adjacent to the first display area in the vertical direction contains data; and merging the first display area with the third display area if the second display area does not contain data- See Chen fig. 3, 4a-c and para 10-15.

Beginning on page 11 of 46 of the Remarks (hereinafter the remarks), Applicant argues the following issues, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The reason is set forth in the Final Office Action mailed 01/09/2008 and further view of the following:

It is noted applicants cancelled claims 2-5, 9-11, 13-25, 20 and incorporated the cancelled claims 2-5 and 20 into independent claim 1 (see paper filed 04/08/2008 and RCE filed 05/06/2008, which are accordingly rejected in the above rejection (see the above for details).

in addition, applicants argue, Maeda and Chen fail to teach, "*Digest screen display content deciding means selects display elements belonging to respective regions of a document based on display priorities of the display elements, which are obtained by digest screen display priority information creating means, and decides elected display elements as display content of a digest screen under a condition where a total display area does not exceed a required display area. A merging relationship among the regions is set based on layout information for the regions, created by digest screen region layout information creating means. Display content deciding means decides the display content of a detail screen based on the merging relationship among the regions, and creates a digest of the detail screen based on control information created by control information creating means. Moreover, digest screen display content*

*changing means changes the display content of the digest screen in response to an operation of a user."* see the remarks pages 11-14.

The examiner respectfully disagrees,

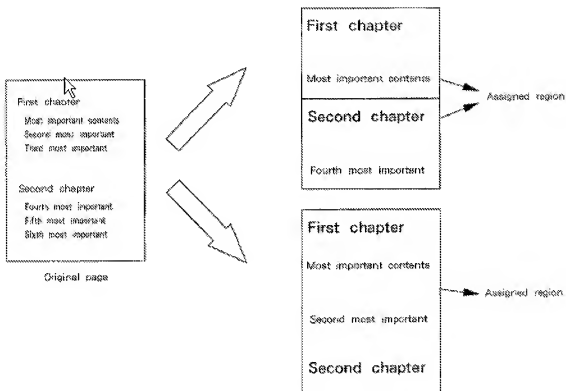
For purposes of responding to Applicant's argument, the examiner will assume that Applicant is arguing for the patentability of Claim 1.

As discuss in the rejection above, Maeda et al. describes the short coming of an enlarged display specifies that a display screen, using the magnification tool is used only the data in a designated small area are magnified. However, the area within which magnified data are displayed is narrow. And if the size of the magnification area is increased, a portion hidden by the magnification area is expanded, and viewing the contents of an original display screen is difficult. That is, since with the conventional techniques only one part on a display screen is enlarged, it is difficult to obtain an overview of the data and to understand the contents- See Maeda at Page 1 Para 11-12. Thus, Maeda further discloses an information processing terminal, includes web browser, and display controller (for analyzing the structure of the layout of the document, a region arrangement) to display the contents of a document **using a selected display condition**, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, **while preserving the layout of the document** as well as to edit the contents of the document, **when it is enlarged and displayed**, so that important information in the document survives-See Maeda fig. 1 and para 13-15. Also Maeda

further discloses the elements wherein a display condition designated by a user. As a result, there is no deterioration of the layout of the web page- See Maeda at Para 81.

Also Maeda at Fig. 19 and at Page 9 Para 111 discloses the determination condition, where the screen of the web page that is finally displayed can be controlled. Referring to FIG. 19 as the size of an assigned region is reduced (the division of a rectangular area is continued as long as possible), the layout of the web page nears that of the original, but important contents of the original page tend to be missing. While referring to FIG. 19, on a screen whereon the rectangular area is divided into many segments, the overall ratio whereat the screen is occupied by "the first chapter" and "the second chapter" is close to that for the original pages. On the other hand, if the size of an assigned region is maintained (the rectangular area is not divided into many segments), while important contents tend to be retained in a ***digest, the layout.***





in view of Chen et al. which shows the merging process, wherein the first display area is merging with the second display area if the second display area does not contain data an intermediate data stream in name/value pair format; determining whether a third display area adjacent to the first display area in the vertical direction contains data; and determining whether a third display area adjacent to the first display area in the vertical direction contains data; and merging the first display area with the third display area if the second display area does not contain data- See Chen fig. 3, 4a-c and para 10-15.

This interpretation is supported by the Applicant's disclosure, which states, "a digest of a document, such as a Web page, the layout of which is predetermined by a creator" See Applicant Specs at Page 1 Lines 5-6, and also **"creating a digest of a document the layout of which is determined ....the region merged with the displayed regions ... when the region group is too large to fit in the required display area"** See the Applicant's Specs Page 12, Lines 10-22.

Thus Maeda and Chen clearly disclose digest screen display content deciding means selects display elements belonging to respective regions of a document based on display priorities of the display elements, which are obtained by digest screen display priority information creating means, and decides elected display elements as display content of a digest screen under a condition where a total display area does not exceed a required display area. A merging relationship among the regions is set based on layout information for the regions, created by digest screen region layout information creating means. Display content deciding means decides the display content of a detail screen based on the merging relationship among the regions, and creates a digest of the detail screen based on control information created by control information creating means. Moreover, digest screen display content changing means changes the display content of the digest screen in response to an operation of a user, that allows display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and

displayed, so that important information in the document survives. Also, to address the remarks pages 14-29, applicant stated, *"In response, the applicants respectfully states that the office communication has cited significant portions of Maeda a Chen in order to allege a showing of teaching or obviousness, which is apparently not conceived by Maeda and/or Chen. However, in order to bring this application to allowance, claim 1 is amended to bring all the limitations of claims 2-5 and 20 into claim 1. This is particularly narrow when considering that the apparatus claimed must have selective performance capability of all the various means of claim 20. Claims 2-5 and 20 are canceled. Thus, claim 1 is certainly allowable."*

The examiner respectfully disagrees,

to address the newly amended claim 1, the examiner introducing the new line of rejection, but maintain Maeda and Chen references, because Maeda and Chen clearly disclose digest screen display content deciding means selects display elements belonging to respective regions of a document based on display priorities of the display elements, which are obtained by digest screen display priority information creating means, and decides elected display elements as display content of a digest screen under a condition where a total display area does not exceed a required display area. A merging relationship among the regions is set based on layout information for the regions, created by digest screen region layout information creating means. Display content deciding means decides the display content of a detail screen based on the merging relationship among the regions, and creates a digest of the detail screen based

on control information created by control information creating means. Moreover, digest screen display content changing means changes the display content of the digest screen in response to an operation of a user, that allows display the contents of a document using a selected display condition, such as a desired font size or a desired line space or character space, while preserving the layout of the document as well as to edit the contents of the document, when it is enlarged and displayed, so that important information in the document survives (See above rejection for more details).

Accordingly, for at least all the above evidence, and the current rejection, therefore the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection of claims 1, 8, 12 16 and 18-19, at least at this time.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2176

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*/Quoc A. Tran/*

Patent Examiner

*/Rachna S Desai/*  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2176